(c) the estimated number of cases presently pending at district level courts in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Permanent and continuous Lok Adalats are being set up in every district throughout the country.

(b) Under sub-section (5) of Section 19 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, Lok Adalats have jurisdiction to determine and to arrive at a compromise or settlement between the parties to a dispute in respect of any cases pending before; or any matter which is falling within the jurisdiction of and is not brought before, any court for which the Lok Adalat is organized. However, Lok Adalats have no jurisdiction in respect of any case or matter relating to an offence not compoundable under any law.

(c) As on 30th June, 2001, approximately 2.03 crore cases were pending in the subordinate courts in the country.

Re-introduction of provisions of sections 61 and 62 of the IPC

3742. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent observations of the Supreme Court regarding need to re-introduce the repealed provisions of Section 61 and 62 of the Indian Penal Code to forfeit property in corruption cases to check the growth of corruption and illegal gains; and

(b) If so the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The Supreme Court has recently in Shobha Suresh Jumani Vs. Appellate Tribunals Forfeited Property, 2001 (4) SCALE 4 observed as under:

" Sections 61 and 62 were deleted by Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 1921. But considering the situation prevailing in the society, it appears that the said provisions are required to be re-introduced so as to have deterrent effect on those who are bent upon to accumulate wealth at the cost of the society by misusing their post or power. We hope that the Legislature would consider this aspect appropriately."

(b) Since the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 already provides for forfeiture of property illegally acquired by public servants, the Government will still examine whether any changes are required.

Probe against Erring Companies

3743. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain companies which figured prominently in the list of K. 10 shares have not been probed;

(b) whether Satyam and Infosis have been left scot free;

(c) if so, whether the companies which have been cleared by SEBI in its report are being harassed; and

(d) if so the action proposed to be taken against erring companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY):

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Change in Indian jurisprudence due to recognition of Astrology as a subject by UGC

3744. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUS TICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be an obvious change in the Indian Jurisprudence following the recognition of Astrology as a science subject by the UGC; and

(b) the possible bearing of this?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRJ ARUN JAITELY):

(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.